

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 125

By Butler

A RESOLUTION to commemorate Run for the Wall Week in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, in May 1989, 115 motorcycles left San Diego, California, to travel to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, known as "The Wall," located in Washington, D.C., in an effort to raise awareness about prisoners of war/missing in action (POW/MIA) from all wars; and

WHEREAS, only fifteen of the riders completed what has now become known as "Run for The Wall," an annual event that empowers participants to "ride for those who can't," promotes healing among all veterans and their families and friends, calls for an accounting of all prisoners of war and those missing in action, honors the memory of those killed in action, and supports our military personnel around the world; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans unaccounted for has slowly decreased in the past years, but many families still have not had their closure; therefore, the Run for the Wall rides strive to keep accountability at the forefront and raise visibility, while also saluting the women and men who have proudly worn the uniforms of the United States of America's military and the families who have served alongside them; and

WHEREAS, in every generation, there are courageous Americans who answer the call to serve in our armed forces; they represent the very best of the human spirit and stand tall for the values and freedoms we cherish; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we should pay tribute to our service members who have not returned from the battlefield, stand beside their families, and honor those who are, or who have been, held captive as prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, between May 21-23, 2023, more than 500 riders will include Tennessee communities, veteran memorials, and VA facilities on their route from Ontario, California, to

Washington, D.C., and then on to the Middle East Conflicts Wall in Marseilles, Illinois, in this year's Run for the Wall; and

WHEREAS, the Midway Route of Run for the Wall will stop overnight in Cookeville on May 21-23, 2023, and the Southern Route will stop overnight in Chattanooga on May 23-24, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Run for the Wall will also visit various Tennessee municipalities, VA facilities, and veteran memorials along the two routes; and

WHEREAS, we salute the many volunteers and participants who make this such a special event of remembrance as they continue their mission to raise awareness about American POW/MIAs; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we join with our fellow Tennesseans and veterans from across the nation in commemorating May 16-27, 2023, as Run for the Wall Week and thank the event's organizers and participants for visiting the Volunteer State on May 21-24, 2023, en route to Washington, D.C., and Marseilles, Illinois.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.